IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A bus station for use in a bus communication system, comprising a first communication port and a second communication port, being arranged to operate in a first mode upon detection of the presence of a host station coupled to said second port and to operate in a second mode upon detection of the absence of a host station coupled to said second port, said bus station being arranged in said first mode of operation to pass communication between said host station coupled to said second port and a first device station coupled to said first port, said bus station further being arranged to operate as an alternate host station in said second mode of operation, by communicating with said first device station coupled to said first port according to a communication protocol whereby said bus station initiates communications, and to communicate with a further device station coupled to said second port on behalf of said first device station, whereby the first device station appears as a host station to the further device station.

2. (Previously presented) A bus station according to claim 1 wherein said bus station is arranged to operate as a USB transceiver in said first mode of operation and to operate as a USB host in said second mode of operation.

3. (Currrently amended) A bus station according to claim 1 wherein said bus station further comprises transceiver circuitry coupled to said first and second port for passing communication between said host station coupled to said second port and said first device station in said first mode of operation.

4. (Previously presented) A bus station for use in a bus system, comprising a device controller coupled to a communication port, being arranged to operate as a device station, said bus station further being arranged to operate under control of system software, comprising an operating system and host station driver software, the host driver being arranged to communicate with a host controller and to pass information to and from the operating system, wherein said system software further comprises host emulation software being arranged to emulate the presence of a host controller towards the host station driver software and the presence of device station driver software towards the device controller, further being arranged to translate communications from the host station driver software to the device controller and vice versa

5. (Currently amended) A bus communication system comprising a first bus station having a device communication port, and a second bus station having first communcations port and a second communication port, said second bus station being arranged to operate in a first mode upon detection of the presence of a host station coupled to said second port and to operate in a second mode upon detection of the absence of a host station coupled to said second port;

wherein said first station comprises a device controller coupled to said device communication port and being arranged to operate under control of system software, comprising an operating system and host station driver software being arranged to communicate with a host controller and to pass information to and from the operating system, wherein said system software further comprises host emulation software being

arranged to emulate the presence of a host controller towards the host station driver software and the presence of device station driver software towards the device controller, further being arranged to translate communications from the host station driver software to the device controller and vice versa.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the communication port is a USB communication port.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the device communication port, the first communication port, and the second communication port are USB communication ports.